

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 328

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Ralph Erwin, Jr.

WHEREAS, The members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Ralph Erwin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, A Bristol native, Mr. Erwin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Son of the late Joseph R. Erwin and Della Mae Hice Erwin, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in the Spring of 1951 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant; he thus took his place alongside the gallant Marines who have served and continue to serve, protect and ensure the freedom of this State and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, This noble Marine served as a naval gunfire spotter for the famed *USS Missouri* during the Korean Conflict and earned the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, After completing his military service, Mr. Erwin served with distinction as a teacher, coach, and administrator in the Tennessee and Virginia School Systems before taking a well-deserved retirement from the Bristol City Schools in 1990; he earned the respect of his colleagues and students alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his acumen in motivating his students to reach their full potential as scholars and citizens; and

WHEREAS, He was an extremely talented and compassionate educator whose friendship and counsel were highly valued by those fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Erwin, Jr. was an active and dedicated citizen of his community, holding membership in the Bristol Evening Lions Club and the Masonic Lodge; and

WHEREAS, An active and devout Christian, Mr. Erwin was a member of the Windsor Avenue Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, He was also deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Erwin, Jr. enjoyed the love and companionship of his beloved wife, Martha Fain Erwin; he was the devoted father of a son and three daughters, Joe Erwin, Rebecca Steele, Mary Hughes, and Sandra Dick and the proud grandfather of Mary Ashley Hughes, Joshua Dick, Michael Erwin, and Sandra Erwin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Erwin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Ralph Erwin, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his impressive record of service as a soldier, educator and public servant and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Erwin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.